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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/118,991	07/20/1998	TAKAHIRO NISHI	HYAE.082	9605

7590 12/18/2001

PARKHURST & WENDEL
SUITE 210
1421 PRINCE STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VA 223142805

EXAMINER

VO, TUNG T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2613

DATE MAILED: 12/18/2001

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/118,991	NISHI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Tung T. Vo	2613	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10/10/01.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☒ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 27,28 and 31-33 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. This application is in condition for allowance except for the presence of claims 1-26, 29-30 to an invention non-elected with traverse in Paper No. 9 filed 10/10/01. Applicant is given ONE MONTH or THIRTY DAYS from the mailing date of this letter, whichever is longer, to cancel the noted claims or take other appropriate action (37 CFR 1.144). Failure to take action during this period will be treated as authorization to cancel the noted claims by Examiner's Amendment and pass the case to issue. Extensions of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) will not be permitted since this application will be passed to issue.

The prosecution of this case is closed except for consideration of the above matter.

2. Applicant's election with traverse of claims 27-28, 31-33 in Paper No. 9 filed 10/10/01 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that the elected claims would necessarily encompass a thorough and complete search for the subject matter of the non-elected claims. This is not found persuasive because the election of Species, claims 27-28 and 31-33, are corresponding to figures 6, 7, 12, 13, 18, 19, and 24 that illustrate an image decoding apparatus. The non-elected claims would obviously be corresponding to the other figures that illustrate an image encoding apparatus or an adaptive scan changing method according the coding apparatus.

It is clarified that the application contains claims 1-33 are corresponding to 1-38 figures that describe twelfth embodiments of the invention. According to the applicant selection of the Species, claims 27-28 and 31-33, the selected claims that are corresponding to figures 6, 7, 12,

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13, 18, 19, and 24 have been considered. Moreover, the requirement as set forth in the previous Office Action, paper No 9, and the above is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 27, 28, and 31-33 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art fails to disclose, suggest or teach an image processing method for performing block-by-block decoding of a coded image signal that is obtained by performing a coding process including frequency transformation to a digital image signal, for each of block constituting a single display screen comprising the step of performing rearrangement to an input signal of a decoding target block to be subjected to decoding that is obtained by coding various frequency components which have been subjected to an interframe prediction process and an intraframe prediction process in a prescribed order, with switching, on the basis of flag information indicating switching of rearrangement, which information is input together with the input signal, between the first rearrangement operation in which the input signal is subjected to adaptive rearrangement in an order according to the kinds of both the prediction processes, and the second rearrangement operation in which the input signal is subjected to rearrangement in a specific order, regardless of the kinds of both the prediction processes;

generating intra-frame predicted values of frequency components corresponding to the decoding target block from frequency components corresponding to an already decoded block located in the vicinity of the decoding target block, by the intra-frame prediction process; generating frequency components corresponding to the decoding target block on the basis of the

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input signal after the rearrangement and the intraframe predicted values; performing inverse frequency transformation to the frequency components corresponding to the decoding target block to generate one of an image signal corresponding to the decoding target block and a differences signal corresponding to the same block;

and adding, to the difference signal corresponding to the decoding target block, inter-frame predicted values of an image signal of the decoding target block, which are generated from an image signal corresponding to an already decoded display screen different from a display screen including the decoding target block by the inter-frame prediction process, thereby generating an image signal corresponding to the decoding target block.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tung T. Vo whose telephone number is (703) 308-5874. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30 AM 3:00 PM.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris. Kelley can be reached on (703) 305-4856. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9314 for regular communications and (703) 872-9314 for After Final communications.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-700.

Tung T. Vo
Examiner
Art Unit 2613

T. Vo
December 4, 2001


CHRIS KELLEY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600